

3.03 A FARMER PLANTS SOME SEEDS

LUKE 8:4-15

There was another large group of people listening to Jesus teach one day. Jesus was telling them stories, so they would learn good ways to live. By His telling stories, they would be able to easily understand the lessons He was trying to teach them.

On that day, Jesus was telling a story about a farmer sowing his seeds. The farmer took some seeds in his hand and gently scattered them around his land in order to plant them. He was hoping they would grow into a good crop of grain for his family. The seeds fell on different kinds of soil on the farmer's property.

Some seeds fell on the road. Those seeds were crushed by animals or by people stepping on them. The birds searched and found the seeds and ate them up. That made good food for the birds! However, those seeds did not grow.

Some seeds fell on small stones, called gravel, which made up some of the land. Those seeds began to grow, but there was not much soil on the ground. The seeds stopped growing because there was not enough space for the roots. The gravel got in the way.

Other seeds fell in with weeds. Weeds can be very strong. Even though the seeds tried to grow, the weeds surrounded them and choked them.

Finally, there were seeds that landed on good soil. Those seeds grew up healthy and strong. They made a good crop of harvest.

The disciples asked Jesus to explain this story to them. Jesus said, "The story is about people who hear God's Word. The seeds on the road are the people who hear God's word, but as soon as they hear it, it is stolen away from them. The Devil steals all that is good. He wants people to disobey God. He steals God's Word from peoples' hearts, so they won't believe and they won't be saved.

"The seeds in the gravel are the people who listen to God's Word with great excitement, but after a while, they lose interest. The next time they have a problem, they forget all about how exciting it was to learn about God.

"Then there are the seeds that fall in the weeds. These are the people who hear God's Word, but as soon as they start getting busy with their day—having work to do and having fun—the things they learned get pushed out of their minds.

"The seed is planted in good soil, are people who hear God's Word and are determined to do what He tells them to do—no matter what—and there will be lots of growth. There will be a good crop for those who love and serve God."

When we hear God's Word, we need to listen carefully. We need to think about how we can learn from hearing and start acting the way God wants us to act. We can be like the seeds planted in good soil. We can lead other people to know God and His goodness.

3.03 A FARMER PLANTS SOME SEEDS - TEACHER'S GUIDE

LUKE 8:4-15

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1) Jesus had a story to tell the crowd of people listening to Him. This story was about a farmer planting seeds.
- 2) The seeds that fell on the road were crushed by people and animals walking by. The birds found these seeds and ate them up.
- 3) The seeds that fell in the gravel didn't grow well because the roots weren't able to go deep enough.
- 4) The seeds that fell among the weeds were choked because the weeds were so strong around them.
- 5) The seeds that fell on good soil grew healthy and strong. There was a big crop from these seeds.
- 6) We want to be like the ground with seeds that make a good crop. We need to listen to God's Word and obey it. Then we will be able to tell others about God.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) What story was Jesus telling the people?
- 2) What happened to the seeds on the road?
- 3) What happened to the seeds on the gravel?
- 4) What happened to the seeds that fell among the weeds?
- 5) What happened to the seeds that fell on good soil?
- 6) What happens to us when we listen to God's Word and obey it?

ANSWERS:

- 1) Jesus told the story of the farmer who planted some seeds.
- 2) The seeds on the road were stepped on and then eaten by the birds.
- 3) The seeds did not grow well in the gravel because the roots could not go deep enough.
- 4) The seeds that fell among the weeds got choked, so they couldn't grow.
- 5) The seeds in the good soil grew healthy and strong. They made a big crop.
- 6) When we listen to God's Word and obey Him, we will be like the seeds that make a good crop. We will then be able to tell others about God.